

Senate Executive Committee Minutes

October 7, 2010

3:00 – 5:00, Sue Jameson Room

Abstract

Chair Report. Agenda amended and approved. Minutes of 9/9 and 9/23 approved. Appointments to International Education Task Force. Update from Core Implementation Group of the Graduation Initiative. Question for the Chair. Questions for the Provost. Revision to Global Studies minor approved for Senate consent calendar. Statewide Senator Report. Chair-Elect Report. Vice President of Administration and Finance Report. Vice President of SAEM Report. SAC Letter to SAEM for Student Advocate. APC Report. CFA Report. Senate Agenda approved.

Present: Maria Hess, Ben Ford, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Margie Purser, Sam Brannen, Jennifer Mahdavi, Richard Senghas, John Wingard, Saeid Rahimi, Susan Moulton, Art Warmoth, Catherine Nelson, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Elaine Newman

Absent: Andy Merrifield, Ruben Armiñana

Guests: Alex Boyar, Steve Wilson, Thaine Stearns, Heather Smith

Chair Report – J. Wingard

J. Wingard announced that the Annual Emeritus Faculty Recognition Dinner would be held on November 5th in Prelude, the restaurant facility of the Green Music Center. He said he would be in Long Beach the next week for a Statewide Chairs meeting.

Approval of Agenda – items added: SAC letter to VP of SAEM regarding student advocate position; appointments to International Education Task Force. Approved.

Approval of Minutes of 9/9/10 and 9/23/10 – Approved.

Appointments to International Education Task Force – J. Wingard

J. Wingard introduced the item by saying that the Task Force was created by the Provost and Dean Merickel who had asked for faculty to be appointed to the committee. The Chair had received a memo from the ACIP representative stating that it seemed logical for the ACIP rep to sit on that task force. The Provost provided background on the Task Force, that was one of a number that he had set up – the Graduation Initiative, Faculty Professional Development, the concept of Academic Quality, how to allocate resources within Academic Affairs and International Students. He then explained why he had created a Task Force for International Education. He thought the numbers of international students at SSU was low and had found out that International Programs was not well funded. He described his thoughts about the value of having more international students on campus. The task forces were brainstorming groups who would then take their ideas to faculty

governance or other entities on the campus. There was some concern to have a communication link between the brainstorming groups and faculty governance. A member noted that faculty appointments go through Structure and Functions and wondered why the item was at the Executive Committee and argued that he thought that the task forces would be stronger if faculty were involved from the start. The Chair said that since the Standing Committee Chairs sit on JCAP, that was the contact point and they could identify if there were specific people or committees working on related or similar issues in faculty governance that would then be appropriate for the task forces. The APC Chair said the process being discussed was on the agenda for JCAP. Several members voice their opinion that the item belonged in Structure and Functions. A member asked that the task force include issues about SSU students who go abroad to study. The Chair said the discussions about this were relatively recent and he didn't think they were ready to charge S&F.

Update from Core Implementation Group of the Graduation Initiative – T. Stearns & H. Smith

The Chair noted a written report was in the agenda packet. T. Stearns said himself and H. Smith were the Senate representatives to the Core Implementation Group of the Graduation Initiative. He described the composition of the group. He noted the Provost had told the group that they were not to make policy or proposals, but to gather suggestions and recommendations from their constituencies. The report in the packet was one of the monthly reports the campus was required to send to the Chancellor's office. He noted he had been to three meetings that day and was struck by the overlap of concerns in each group about the Graduation Initiative. He expressed his willingness to report to the Executive Committee and/or the Senate as often as was requested. He was sensitive to the informal conversations going on about the Graduation Initiative and wanted to bring facts to faculty governance to offset the kind of rhetoric and rumors he was hearing. A member noted that the document seemed to imply that pre-business majors never needed remedial math, which he knew to not be the case. A member asked that departments be contacted regarding scheduling improvements. The Statewide Senator noted that the "political rhetoric" coming from CFA and the Statewide Senate voiced serious concern. T. Stearns responded that he and H. Smith saw themselves as reasoned skeptics in the working group and stressed the importance of knowing what was happening on our campus. A member asked if the reports were being posted on the web. The Provost said some had been posted and they would post them when they were completed. A member voiced the need for permanent faculty and how that interacted with advising. A member asked whether the discussion regarding academic quality was articulated with the Graduation Initiative. T. Stearns discussed the kinds of the discussions in the working group and H. Smith noted her interest in having the recommendations be grounded in real data. The Provost talked about how he thought about the working group, that everyone on campus had a responsibility to help students achieve graduation and so he had invited all areas of campus to be involved and bring suggestions. He was trying a new system, everyone on the working group was responsible to bring back suggestions from their constituencies. He reaffirmed his desire to help SSU students. A member asked if there was survey data for students who leave and do not return. The Provost said the new Institutional Research Director would be devoting a significant amount of her time

on these issues. The APC Chair spoke about underlying tensions he saw between improving academic quality and improving graduation rates as well as consulting with everyone and having timely action. He thought that faculty governance needed be mindful of how it was reconciling these two tensions. A member asked how the working group was working with the Standing Committees. A member argued that academic quality should be the main goal of SSU and that everything should tie back to that in one way or another. The Provost noted that he agreed that academic quality should be in forefront and added in the reports from time to time as a reminder. T. Stearns encouraged direction from the Executive Committee and the Senate as the faculty on the CIG group move forward. The student representative asked what the goals were for the Graduation Initiative. The Provost said that the Chancellor mandated that campuses improve graduation rates in various categories with specific numbers, so those were the goals and the reports only showed a small portion of what is being worked on towards reaching those numbers. He also stated he had not heard anyone express improving graduation rates at the expense of academic quality. There was discussion about how to know why people attend SSU and why they leave.

Question for the Chair

A member asked about the Learning Objectives that were moved from being information items to a business item at the last Senate meeting. The Chair responded that he had some concerns after the Executive Committee put it on the agenda as an information item that is precluded the Senate from discussing it. He discussed it with the Past Chair and Chair-Elect before the Senate. It was his decision that the discussion about whether it should have been a business item or an information item, should have happened during the motion to change the agenda. The member thought the Chair should have described what was going on when the motion was made.

Questions for the Provost

A member asked about the mechanism for resource allocation to the Schools. The Provost described his approach using one example of tenure-track searches. He said that qualitative and quantitative data would be part of the discussions. He thought previously allocations had been made on a more ad-hoc basis and he wanted to use more of a mechanism. The member asked what the AABAC did then. The Provost said the mechanism part of the allocations process was way below what the AABAC would see and comment on. A member asked the Provost about certificate programs in Extended Education and the concern of some graduate programs that had never been consulted about courses used in certificate program and thus, had no purview over. The Provost said one of the Task Forces would be about graduate studies and he wanted to clear up these kinds of issues. A member brought up concerns about the consultation process in the Schools. The Provost said he hoped faculty members with expertise in certain areas would help their colleagues. A member asked if the Provost would be using CSU averages in his allocations mechanism. He said he would be using numbers, but not the ones “generated.” He wanted to compare like things with like. The EPC chair expressed concern about there being a task force on graduate studies when there was already a graduate studies subcommittee of EPC.

The Chair said they were looking for the logical collaborative links. A member warned strongly against creating a shadow faculty governance structure. Such structures were, by definition, hard to see and as Peter Pan knew, very difficult to reattach once separated.

Revision to Global Studies minor – E. Newman

E. Newman introduced the item and described the changes. The changes were primarily to assist in advising. There was discussion about protocol for this program and receiving letters of approval for changes from affected departments. **It was approved for the consent calendar with the addition of a letter of support from the Global Studies Steering Committee and verification that it was passed unanimously at the Curriculum Committee level.**

Statewide Senator Report – C. Nelson

C. Nelson said she would be at the Statewide Senate meetings next week and would have more after that.

Chair-Elect Report – B. Ford

B. Ford reported that Structure and Functions appointed Elyse Lord to the Alternate Transportation Committee.

Vice President of Administration and Finance Report - L. Furukawa-Schlereth

L. Furukawa-Schlereth noted that at the CRC meeting they would be discussing the Faculty-In-Residence program and receiving a report and reviewing a proposal to have a second Faculty-In-Residence for the Arts, arts very broadly defined. He noted that the first Faculty-In-Residence had quite a lot of consultation in faculty governance and wanted the Executive Committee to be aware. A member voice appreciation for the Fulbright Scholar Reception and stated upon attendance he felt he was in an institution of higher learning, a center of culture and advancement and urged more of that kind of activity. The Past Chair asked L. Furukawa-Schlereth the about the Carinelli loan and the article in the Press Democrat recently. (<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20101006/BUSINESS/101009621>) L. Furukawa-Schlereth said that the SSU Academic Foundation had voted against Carinelli's bankruptcy plan, thinking that is was not in the best interest of the charitable remainder trusts beneficiaries. He also said that the University was very close to accepting the Healdsburg land to settle the bankruptcy.

Vice President of SAEM Report – M. Lopez-Phillips

M. Lopez-Phillips reported that SAEM had a very successful parents weekend and thanked the Provost and Faculty Chair for speaking. He noted two searches that were in process in SAEM – a career counselor and a confidential support in the VP of SAEM's office. He apologized for the "nooner" that started at 11:00am. There was a request to have the new IR Director to be introduced to the Senate.

SAC Letter to SAEM for Student Advocate – J. Mahdavi

J. Mahdavi noted that SAC had been working on the letter to SAEM with M. Lopez-Phillips assistance regarding the hiring of a student advocate for students who experience traumatic events. She described the special qualifications this position would require. She noted that the letter did not negate the previous resolution put forward by SAC and approved by the Senate about the campus needing more counselors. She asked for the letter to go to the Senate as an information item. There was discussion about whether “significant others” in the letter meant that SSU personnel would be counseling non-students. It was decided to take that phrase out of the letter. **There was a motion that SAC draft a resolution for the Senate to support the letter. Second. No objection.**

APC Report – A. Warmoth

A. Warmoth reported that there would be a discussion about improving the communication between Academic Affairs and faculty governance in JCAP. He asked for some consultation from the Executive Committee and provided some background for his question. He asked for Structure and Functions to formalize the relationship between JCAP. He asked the Executive Committee about process for reports that come out of APC or JCAP.

CFA Report – C. Nelson for A. Merrifield

C. Nelson reported that A. Merrifield was attending a mediation session on the '09-'10 impasse. The issues before the mediation had to do with compensation. She said there were assurances from the Governor and Legislators that the \$305 million would be put back into the CSU. The Legislature put \$200 million in the budget and with the federal stimulus money, that would bring the CSU close to the \$305 million. She wanted the body to know that CFA worked very hard behind the scenes to keep that money in the budget.

Senate Agenda

AGENDA

Report of the Chair of the Faculty – John Wingard

Correspondences

Consent Items:

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Revision to Global Studies minor - emailed

Special Report: Senate Representatives to the Core Implementation Group of the Graduation Initiative - T. Stearns TC 3:15

BUSINESS

1. Resolution from SAC: Endorse Letter to VP of SAEM for Student Advocate position – First Reading – J. Mahdavi – attached TC 3:45
2. Revision to Learning Objectives for areas A & C – Second Reading – E. Newman – attached TC 4:10
3. Revision to GE Unit Policy – Second Reading – E. Newman – attached - TC 4:30

The Provost suggested that committee meeting times might be changed allow time for people to get to the meetings.

Approved.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmstrom Vega